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**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Thirteenth session,
Geneva, 7-17 July 1997,
agenda item (3 (a))**

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Tanks (Part 3, Chapters 4.2 and 6.6)

Portable Tanks - Additional Marking of Tanks

Transmitted by the Expert from Germany

Following the discussion on the subject of "Instructions for portable tanks; coded sequence" (see ST/SG/AC.10/23, Report of the Committee of Experts on its 19th Session, 2-10 December 1996, Geneva, paras. Nos. 94 -114) the proposal from Germany (ST/SG/AC.10/R.531 and INF. 30) concerning "coded sequence" (Germany prefers the wording "tank string") was not adopted despite the indubitable advantages (user friendliness, easy recognition of tanks marked with the tank string) of the tank string system. However, it was agreed that the question of "additional marking of tanks" could be included in the work programme for the next biennium (see ST/SG/AC.10/23, para. No. 211).

The Expert from Germany intended to submit a proposal concerning "additional marking of tanks" for the next session of the Sub-Committee of Expert in Geneva, 7-17 July 1997.

In the meantime, the subject has been discussed at the last session of the RID/ADR Joint Meeting, held from 17 to 21 March 1997 in Bern. There was no final decision concerning tank coding (tank string) for identification of tanks in the context of restructuring RID/ADR because of the risk of introducing disharmonies between RID/ADR and the reformatted UN Recommendations. Therefore, it was agreed to convene a small working group to clear up problems and to find a solution which would be suitable for RID/ADR and the UN Recommendations.

The working group is expected to meet from 21 to 23 May 1997 in Berlin, with representatives from France, Netherlands, United States, UIP, UIC and Germany.

It would seem reasonable to await the outcome of the working group meeting before submitting a proposal to the Sub-Committee.

Therefore, the Expert from Germany should like to inform members of the Sub-Committee that he intends to prepare a proposal after the working group meeting which will be presented to the Sub-Committee for discussion.